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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL];
Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **RIETMAN, Ronald** [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

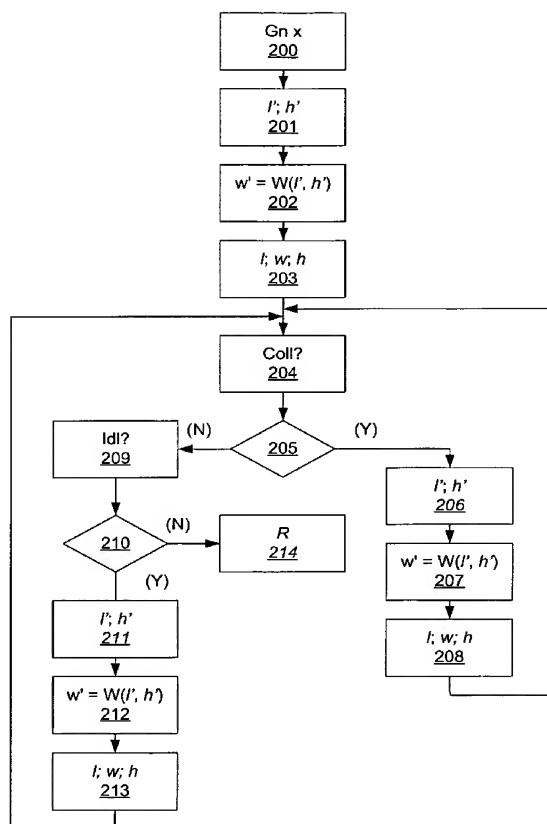
(74) Agents: **GROENENDAAL, Antonius, W., M.** et al.; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

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(54) Title: CONTENTION RESOLUTION PROTOCOL FOR A SHARED CHANNEL



(57) Abstract: A method of controlling a window in a contention resolution protocol for a shared channel between at least three contending stations, according to which a station contends for a channel over a number of steps by generating a number, x , within an interval with a lower bound, l , initially equal to an initial lower bound, L , and an upper bound, h , initially equal to an initial upper bound, U ; and by trying to access the channel if the number, x , falls within a window with the lower bound, l , and an upper window bound, w ; a station which generated a number outside the window is eliminated from contending for the channel; whereas a station which generated a number within the window continues to contend for the channel; the method continues until one station is singled out to be determined winning the contention; the method comprises a step of: setting the upper window bound, w , to set a window within which the expected number of stations that will try to access the channel is approximately equal to 1. In a preferred embodiment the upper window bound, w , is set according to the following expressions: $w = W(l, h) \equiv l + (h-l)/n$ where $h \equiv U$, and $w = W(l, h) \equiv (l+h)/2$ otherwise; where n represents a number of contending stations or an estimated number of contending stations.



SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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